

Message Text

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22

ACTION CU-04

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R 251314Z JUN 76 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO USINFO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8252

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 1039

USIA FOR IBS, IPS, IAA

LAGOS FOR VOA JOHN ROBERTS

PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: IMPRESSIVE SUCCESS OF (MALAGASY) BICENTENNIAL CHOIR

REF: CM-621, 5/27/76

1. OVER 300 PEOPLE FILLED THE CULTURAL CENTER'S LOUNGE TO HEAR THE BICENTENNIAL CHOIR'S FIRST PERFORMANCE JUNE 23, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF LUCIEN RANDRIANARIVELO, CONDUCTOR OF TANANARIVE'S SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA.

2. RAIN CHECKS FOR THE CHOIR'S SECOND CONCERT ON FRIDAY JULY 2 WERE GIVEN TO MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO WERE TURNED AWAY FOR LACK OF SPACE.

3. THE CHOIR COMPOSED OF EIGHTY YOUNG MALAGASY (SEE TANANARIVE 950 AND 975) SANG 15 SONGS IN ENGLISH FROM THE J.C. PENNEY BICENTENNIAL MUSICAL CELEBRATION COLLECTION. "I'LL TAKE SUGAR IN MY COFFEE-O" BY JESTER HAIRSTON WAS ENCORED. ERNEST BLOCH'S "AMERICA" WAS WARMLY APPLAUDED THE AUDIENCE SANG WITH THE CHOIR THE WORDS OF MITCH LEIGH'S "THE DREAM IS AMERICA":

"THE DREAM IS TO BE FREE
THE CHANCE TO DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO
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TO BE WHAT YOU WANT TO BE"

4. AFTER THE PERFORMANCE, THE GOVERNOR OF TANANARIVE PROVINCE, COLONEL REMI RATSIMBAZAFY PERSONALLY PRESENTED

EACH CHOIR MEMBER WITH A COPY OF THE NEWLY-COMPLETED
MALAGASY TRANSLATION OF "AN OUTLINE OF U.S. HISTORY",
PUBLISHED BY RSC BEIRUT.

5. THE PRESS GAVE EXCEPTIONAL COVERAGE TO THE EVENT.
ON JUNE 24, MADAGASCAR PRESSE AND MADAGASCAR MATIN PUBLISHED BRIEF REPORTS. ON JUNE 25, THE MALAGASY LANGUAGE DAILY MARESAKA (INDEPENDENT) RAN AN ARTICLE UNDER THE TITLE "LIBERTY SONGS", ASSOCIATED MADAGASCAR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY (JUNE 26) WITH THE MEANING OF THE 4TH OF JULY AND GAVE THE BACKGROUND OF PENNEY'S BICENTENNIAL COLLECTION AS OUTLINED BY THE PAO IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON JUNE 23. THE SAME DAY, MADAGASCAR MATIN PUBLISHED A THREE COLUMN INTERVIEW WITH CONDUCTOR LUCIEN RANDRIANARIVELO. AMONG HIS OTHER STATEMENTS, MR. RANDRIANARIVELO REMARKED THAT: "TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF A CONTINUOUS POLITICAL SYSTEM IS A MESSAGE OF UNIVERSAL SCOPE PROFITABLE TO ALL MANKIND" (FRENCH:..DEUX CENTS ANS DE REGIME NATIONAL SANS CHANGEMENT PROUVE QU'UN TEL SYSTEME COMPORTE UN MESSAGE DE PORTEE UNIVERSELLE PROFITABLE A L'HUMANITE ENTIERE...) AND "...THE HUMANITARIAN MESSAGE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED..." (FRENCH:... LE MESSAGE HUMANITAIRE DE LA REVOLUTION AMERICAINE NE DOIT PAS PASSER INAPERCU...). "...IT IS ALWAYS SIGNIFICANT TO KNOW THE MOTIVES THAT PROMPT PEOPLE TO ESCAPE THE YOKE OF THE COLONISER..." (...LES MOTIFS QUI POUSSENT UN PEUPLE A ECHAPPER AU JOUG DU COLONISATEUR SONT TOUJOURS BONS A CONNAITRE...).

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